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**CLAIMS**

1. An implantable medical device programmer module adapted for use with a clinical monitoring or therapy delivery instrument, the module comprising:
  - a telemetry circuit for telemetric communication with an implantable medical device;
  - a connector electrically coupled to the telemetry circuit and adapted to be received by a receptacle included in the clinical instrument to achieve electrical connection between the programmer module and the clinical instrument; and
  - a housing for encasing the telemetry circuit wherein the housing is adapted for physical connection to the clinical instrument.
2. The module of claim 1 wherein the connector allows an electrical power source included in the clinical instrument to be connected to the module.
3. The module of claim 1 wherein the connector allows downlink telemetry data and control commands to be transferred from a central processing system included in the clinical instrument to the programmer module and uplinked telemetry data from an implanted medical device to be transferred from the programmer module to the central processing system included in the clinical instrument.
4. A medical device system, comprising:
  - an implantable medical device generating uplink telemetry transmissions in response to received downlink telemetry transmissions;
  - an external programmer module generating the downlink telemetry transmissions and receiving the uplink telemetry transmission from the implantable medical device wherein the external programmer module includes telemetry circuitry enclosed in a housing and a connector electrically coupled to the telemetry circuitry;

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a clinical instrument having a receptacle adapted to receive the programmer module connector to achieve electrical connection of the clinical instrument and the programmer module.